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UNCLAS AMMAN 003760

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARN, NEA/PA, NEA/AIA, INR/NESA, R/MR,  
I/GNEA, B/BXN, B/BRN, NEA/PPD  
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LONDON FOR GOLDRICH  
PARIS FOR O'FRIEL  
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NICOSIA FOR ILMG  
STATE PASS TO AID

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KMDR JO](#)

SUBJECT: JORDAN: MEDIA REACTION ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

#### SUMMARY

NEWS REPORTS IN JORDAN'S DAILIES COVERED THE NEW ISRAELI LAW BANNING THE SALE OF LAND TO NON-JEWS AND THE ISRAELI ARMY'S ATTACK ON JORDAN RADIO AND TELEVISION'S OFFICE IN RAMALLAH.

EDITORIAL WRITERS COMMENTED ON THE MUTINY BY THE PALESTINIAN PREVENTIVE SECURITY AGENCY AGAINST THE DISMISSAL OF ITS LEADER JIBRIL RJOUN.

#### NEWS REPORTS

ALL JORDANIAN DAILIES LED WITH REPORTS ON THE NEW ISRAELI LAW THAT BANS THE SALE OF LAND TO NON-JEWS AND FORBIDS ARABS FROM LIVING IN JEWISH QUARTERS, WHICH THE DAILIES DESCRIBED AS RACIST.

REPORTS ALSO COVERED THE ISRAELI ARMY'S ATTACK ON JORDAN RADIO AND TELEVISION'S OFFICES IN RAMALLAH.

#### EDITORIAL COMMENTARIES

##### -- TERRORISM OR WAR OF INDEPENDENCE?

PROMINENT DAILY COLUMNIST DR. FAHED AL-FANEK WROTE IN SEMI-OFFICIAL INFLUENTIAL ARABIC DAILY AL-RAI ON JULY 9: "IF KILLING CIVILIANS CONSTITUTES TERRORISM, WHICH IT DOES, THE KILLING COMMITTED BY THE FORCES OF [ISRAELI] OCCUPATION IS FAR WORSE AND MUCH MORE WORTHY OF CONDEMNATION THAN THE ACTS OF COMMANDOS WHO TRY TO RAISE THE COST OF OCCUPATION TO A POINT THAT PERSUADES ISRAEL OF THE NECESSITY OF WITHDRAWAL AND ACCEPTING PEACE. BUT PRESIDENT BUSH, IN HIS MOST RECENT SPEECH DID NOT ASK ISRAEL TO CEASE ITS TERRORIST ACTS. THE PROBLEM IS NOT ONE OF TERRORISM BUT OF OCCUPATION, THE CONTINUATION OF WHICH IS THE FATHER OF ALL VIOLENCE."

##### -- FIGHTING OVER NOTHING

PROMINENT DAILY COLUMNIST TARIQ MASARWAH WROTE IN SEMI-OFFICIAL INFLUENTIAL ARABIC DAILY AL-RAI ON JULY 9: "IT APPEARS THAT THOSE WHO FIGHT AND MUTINY AND NEGOTIATE OVER POSITIONS IN THE PNA ARE NOT AWARE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PALESTINE. THERE IS NO MORE AUTHORITY EXCEPT THOSE OF THE OCCUPATION, AND THE RESISTANCE TO IT. THE PROMISED PALESTINIAN STATE WILL NOT BE THAT HOPED FOR BY ARAFAT AND [JIBRIL] RJOUN, BUT ONE MADE TO AMERICAN-ISRAELI MEASURES. THE PALESTINIAN STATE IS THERE TO BE MADE BY THOSE WHO LOVE PALESTINE, THOSE WHO FIGHT FOR IT, THOSE WHO ARE MARTYRED FOR ITS CAUSE. THE LIBERATION OF THE HOMELAND AND ITS CITIZENS, ESPECIALLY IN PALESTINE WILL NOT BE ACHIEVED THROUGH FIGHTING OVER NOTHING."

##### -- AT THE CROSSROADS WITH OBSCURE CHOICES

TAHER AL-ADWAN, CHIEF EDITOR OF INDEPENDENT, MASS-APPEAL ARABIC DAILY AL-ARAB AL-YAWM WROTE ON JULY 9: "THE STATE OF THE PNA WOULD BE LAUGHABLE WERE IT NOT SO TRAGIC. THE MEN OF THE PREVENTIVE SECURITY AGENCY NOW DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE DISMISSAL OF THEIR LEADER IN THE SHADOW OF THE TANKS AND ARTILLERY OF THE OCCUPATION FORCES. ONCE AGAIN THE PALESTINIANS ARE AT A CROSSROADS AND THE ONLY WAY OUT OF THE DILEMMA FOR THEM IS TO STAND UNITED BEHIND THEIR GOAL OF LIBERATION. THEY SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THEY STAND ALONE IN A MILITARY AND POLITICAL BATTLE AGAINST ISRAEL/U.S. AND THAT THEY CANNOT AFFORD THE LEISURE OF SLOGANEERING, HIDING BEHIND OBSCURITY."  
GNEHM